

## Questions Submitted to RISEP RFP – Technical Assistance Consultant

1. **Does the EDC intend to hire a consultant under a separate contract to facilitate the RISEP Project Team and Advisory Council input/feedback process described in the Scope of Work? Or do you anticipate that the facilitation work will fall under the same contract and budget described in this RFP?** The RISEP Project Team and Advisory Council input/feedback process described in the Scope of Work will be facilitated by the Office of Energy Resources and the Economic Development Corporation. This facilitation work will not fall under the same contract and budget described in this RFP.
2. **Does the EDC intend to hire a consultant under a separate contract to conduct macroeconomic analysis of the energy future scenarios? Or do you anticipate that macroeconomic analysis will fall under the same contract and budget described in this RFP?** The EDC does not intend to hire a consultant under a separate contract to conduct macroeconomic analysis of the energy future scenarios. It is anticipated that macroeconomic analysis will fall under the same contract and budget described in this RFP.
3. **Would the EDC consider bids for only one or two sectors (e.g., electricity and thermal energy sectors, but not transportation)?** As stated in the RFP, “The vendor should propose a model and analytic methods that can be applied to each sector of Rhode Island’s energy economy addressed in the Plan – electricity, thermal energy (including natural gas), and transportation. If multiple methods are proposed, the vendor should specify which solution applies to which sector. Proposals addressing all three sectors are highly preferred.” Additionally, “The consultant team may include subcontractors; however, the prime respondent will be solely responsible for the management and work-products of the consultant team.”
4. **[...] However, I need to point out that the effort in CT is approximately an order of magnitude bigger in terms of budget, so I am curious to understand whether you are aware of the limitations that will be imposed by your budget estimate. We could probably do bare bones modeling of the scenarios with the budget, but then would not have any left over budget for “process”. Alternatively, it is easy to see how the process, which can be very important, would use up the entire budget. I don’t know what you can say, but to the extent you can provide any clarification, it would help us better understand whether there is really any chance at all that it makes sense for us to submit a proposal.** The RISEP Project Team and Advisory Council input/feedback process described in the Scope of Work will be facilitated by the Office of Energy Resources and the Economic Development Corporation. This facilitation work will not fall under the same contract and budget described in this RFP. As stated in the RFP, “The anticipated budget range for this solicitation is approximately \$100,000 to \$125,000. Cost proposals with budgets above and below this range will be entertained.”
5. **I was wondering if bidders will have the opportunity to negotiate Terms & Conditions if awarded the contract. Are the terms and conditions available to review online?** The Terms and Conditions are not available online. The winning bidder will be given the opportunity to comment on the Terms and Conditions of the Contract.

6. **Jan. 21, the due date, is Martin Luther King Day. Will your offices be open to receive a FedEx package of our proposal?** The due date of this solicitation has been changed to Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:00PM to avoid the Martin Luther King Holiday.
7. **The RFP refers to criteria and objectives for the State Energy Plan. Are we correct in understanding that the Task 1 deliverable will be a set of specific measures for evaluating different scenarios? Will the scenario contractor have input into the selection of these measures to ensure that they are consistent with the data/models being used to evaluate the scenarios? Will the contractor be expected to provide a precise quantitative value for each measure (say \$), or will some objectives be treated qualitatively (say high or low).** The Task 1 deliverable will be a set of directional objectives (each of which correspond to one of the specific Plan criteria) and associated metrics for each directional objective. The metrics will be used to evaluate how well different scenarios meet the directional objectives, and by extension, the Plan criteria. The RISEP Project Team will entertain input from the scenario contractor into the selection of metrics that are not accommodated by proposed models. The RISEP Project Team prefers quantitative measurements over qualitative measurements. If qualitative measurements are proposed for some directional objectives, the RISEP Project Team would prefer a more precise qualitative measure than “high or low”.
8. **The RFP refers to scenarios and strategies. In the examples provided, it appears that these are more decisions (part of the plan) rather than uncertainties (part of the world influencing the plan). For example, one sample scenarios is “Transform Energy Economy” and one sample strategy is “50% RPS.” In this particular example, what is the distinction between a scenario and a strategy within a scenario? Is there interest in evaluating plans in different futures (often called scenarios) that result from various market, technological and regulatory uncertainties. Such as a “low gas price” or “high demand growth” future?** The term “scenario” as used in this solicitation is simply a label used to describe the nature (e.g. degree and type) of the collection of strategies that constitute a scenario. For instance, in the “Transform Energy Economy” example, the “scenario” (Transform Energy Economy) refers to a collection of strategies in the electric, thermal, and transportation sectors that would as a whole transform the energy economy. One of these strategies could be a 50% RPS. Yes, there would be interest on the part of the RISEP Project Team in proposals that evaluate different futures such as a “low gas price” or “high demand growth” future.
9. **Do the BAU results of our model(s) have to precisely match those of the Task 2 provider, ENE, or will matching assumptions and input data be sufficient?** As stated in the RFP, “The BAU forecast developed in Task 2 will be used as a baseline for the scenario modeling. The RISEP Project Team will work with the Advisory Council to determine which BAU forecast [from Task 2] will be used to populate the model. As part of the sensitivity modeling, the selected vendor may be asked to perform sensitivities using the results from more than one of the BAU forecast scenarios developed in Task 2.”
10. **If we have models that could improve the BAU, will baseline adjustments be considered?** The scope of work described in this solicitation does not include BAU development. Please see response to Question 9.

11. **Will the models/data used by the Task 2 vendor be available to the winning bidder for Tasks 3-6?** As stated in the RFP under “ATTACHMENT I – BAU FORECAST SCOPE OF WORK”, “The final product delivered to the [RISEP Project Team] will include a written report, data tables, and graphics”. The RISEP Project Team will share these materials with the winning bidder for Tasks 3-6.
12. **What will be the relationship between ENE and the Task 3-6 provider? Pure handoff or collaborative development? Is ENE a competitor to firms bidding for Tasks 3-6?** The RISEP Project Team will help facilitate any necessary information exchange between ENE and the selected vendor. The EDC is not permitted to disclose the identities of firms which may submit a bid; however, the EDC has confirmed that those entities already providing services associated with this RFP have agreed not to bid.